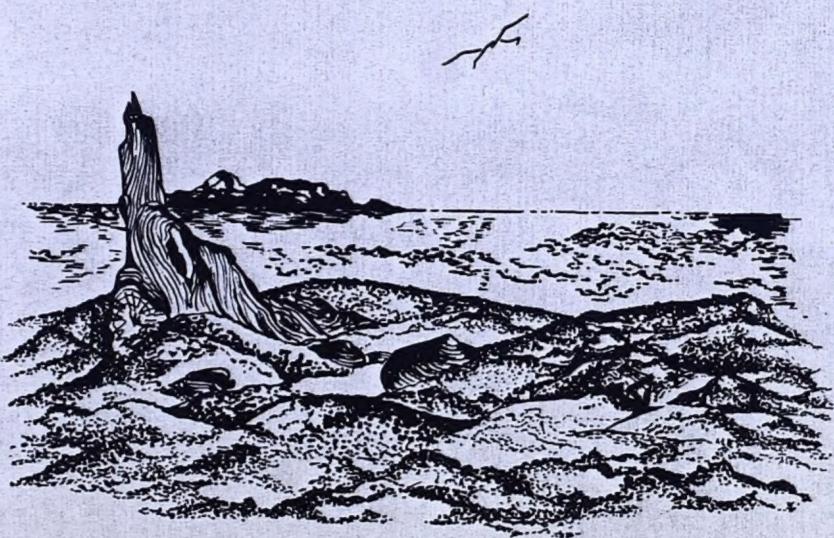


# A POCKETFUL OF BEACH SHELLS

A Basic Guide for Becoming Familiar With  
Some of the More Common Shells  
On Santa Barbara's Beaches



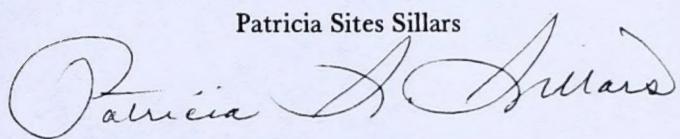
PRICE: 75 cents

A POCKETFUL OF BEACH SHELLS

Text and Illustrations

by

Patricia Sites Sillars

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Patricia Sillars".

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cular species. The Family name of the shell is also included. Perhaps a brief breakdown and explanation of the divisions would make it clearer:

**PHYLUM** — *Mollusca*

The Phylum is a division of the Animal Kingdom. The specific division which concerns seashells is *Mollusca*. These are the mollusks, a group that includes clams, snails, squid, octopus, chitons, and others.

**CLASS** — This large group of mollusks is broken down into five major Classes as follows:

*Pelecyopoda* — The bivalves. This group has two valves, or shells, such as a clam.

*Gastropoda* — The gastropods. These have one valve or shell. It may be many shapes — spiral like a snail, caplike, or sometime lacking altogether.

*Amphineura* — The Chitons. Long flat animals, with eight overlapping plates on their backs.

*Scaphopoda* — The scaphopods. The tusk, or tooth shells. A tapering, tusk-shaped shell.

*Cephalopoda* — The cephalopods. This group includes octopus, squid, and shells such as the Chambered Nautilus.

**ORDER** — These classes are each further divided into orders, which in turn are divided into FAMILIES.

**FAMILY** — This is just what the name implies — a group of one or more related shells. The Family name is given in this booklet, along with the scientific name.

**GENUS** — A division of the Family. This is the first, and capitalized word of the scientific name;

**SPECIES** — A further dividing of the above group, genus. It is the second, non-capitalized word of the scientific name and the specific name of the shell. For example, if there were a basic family group of people named "Smith," Smith would roughly correspond to the genus of the shell, while Walter Smith, denoting a specific member of the Smiths, would correspond to the species name.

There is, after each scientific name, the name of the author (the person who proposed the name of the shell), and the date of publication of that name.

Each illustration is the actual size of the shell, unless otherwise

## INTRODUCTION

There is a fascination about shells. Their color, texture, symmetry, grace, and beauty has appealed to mankind for centuries. Some people have made shell collecting a serious and yet delightful hobby, such as the members of the Santa Barbara Malacological Society, Inc., while others are happily content with gathering "beach shells." It is for this latter group that this booklet is intended.

The shells that lie scattered in the sand along the shore are almost always "dead." That is, the animal who built and lived in it is no longer present. Its "house," or the shell, is washed up by the sea—often chipped or worn—but beautiful in its own right. Since this pamphlet is not intended for the accomplished or scientific collector, only beach shells will be discussed here. We hope that for some it may stimulate their interest enough to want to delve further into the fascinating world of shells. For others, that it will give a feeling of familiarity with our shells and shores.

The geographic area covered in this booklet is limited to beaches in the vicinity of Santa Barbara, California. Please bear in mind that the shells described here are only a very small fraction of the many and varied mollusks which inhabit our coast, but they are among those most commonly washed up upon our shores.

There are several species that may easily be found alive in their natural habitat at the beach, but since this booklet concerns "beach shells" only, I shall not go into the collecting, cleaning, and care of mollusks. If the reader is interested in this phase of shelling, there are several excellent books which include this particular locality. Three of these are:

*A Field Guide to Shells of the Pacific Coast and Hawaii*

by Percy A. Morris

*Marine Shells of Southern California* by James H. McLean

*Seashells of North America* by R. Tucker Abbott

## EXPLANATION OF TERMS USED IN THIS BOOKLET

The scientific name is included along with the "common name" of each shell described. The common name may vary from one locality to another — even from book to book — but the scientific name remains the same. The first word of the scientific name is the genus to which the shell belongs, and the second name is the parti-

### Family FISSURELLIDAE

*Fissurella volcano* (Reeve, 1849).

#### VOLCANO LIMPET

Habitat: Attached to rocks in the middle tide zone.

A conical shaped shell with an opening at the top. It is white inside, while the outside has coarse, bumpy ridges that radiate outward from the opening at the top. The color is pinkish purple, alternating with black and grayish white rays.



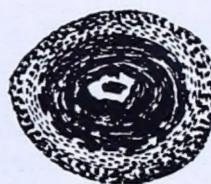
### Family ACMAEIDAE

*Notoacmea fenestrata* (Reeve, 1855).

#### FENESTRATE LIMPET

Habitat: Attached to rocks in the middle to lower tide zone.

A cap shaped shell, dark olive green with tiny whitish dots or checks flecking the surface. The peak of the shell is often worn away, showing a brown undersurface. The interior is dark blue, with a brown patch in the center, and a brown rim around the edge. Its length is about 1 inch.



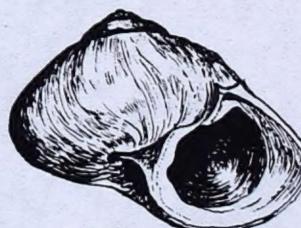
### Family TROCHIDAE

*Norrisia norrisi* (Sowerby, 1838).

#### NORRIS' TOP SHELL

Habitat: Kelp

A smooth, round, fat shell, dark reddish brown in color. There is a deep umbilicus, edged with black, and there is a green stain on the columella. Its diameter is about 2 inches.



(x1/2)

### Family FISSURELLIDAE

*Fissurella volcano* (Reeve, 1849).

#### VOLCANO LIMPET

**Habitat:** Attached to rocks in the middle tide zone. A conical shaped shell with an opening at the top. It is white inside, while the outside has coarse, bumpy ridges that radiate outward from the opening at the top. The color is pinkish purple, alternating with black and grayish white rays.



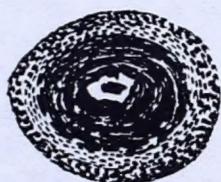
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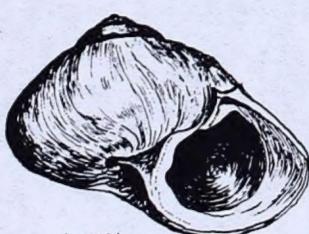
### Family TROCHIDAE

*Norrisia norrisi* (Sowerby, 1838).

#### NORRIS' TOP SHELL

**Habitat:** Kelp

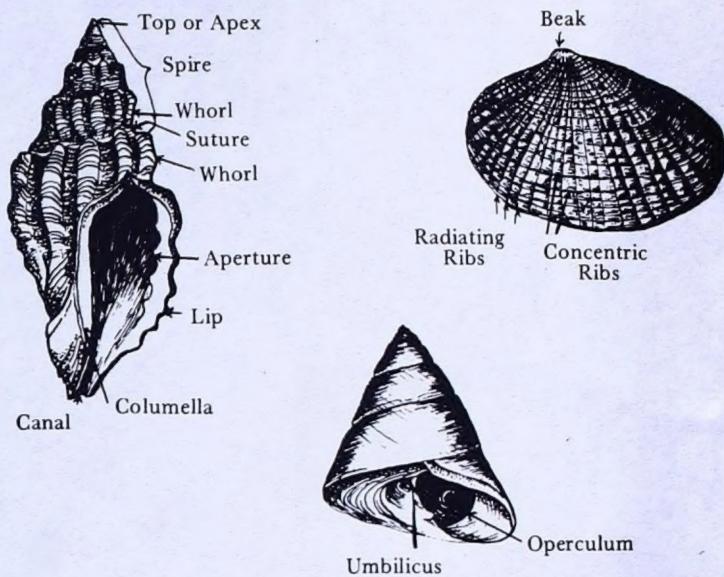
A smooth, round, fat shell, dark reddish brown in color. There is a deep umbilicus, edged with black, and there is a green stain on the columella. Its diameter is about 2 inches.



(x1/2)

noted. Example: (x2) under the drawing means that it is twice life size. (x1/2) would mean that the illustration was half as large as its actual size.

The following illustrations may help in understanding some of the descriptive terms used:



#### LABELING AND STORING

The necessary information or data on a shell should include where, when, and by whom the shell was collected, as well as the name of the shell.

Shells can be stored in a number of containers: cigar boxes, egg cartons, plastic trays or boxes, or any shallow cardboard box.

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We sincerely hope this booklet may prove interesting and helpful to the people who visit our shore — and perhaps the shells you collect will later bring back memories of a vacation trip, a family picnic, or just that lovely, soft day that you ambled along the edge of the sea.